What is claimed is:

1. Optical instrument, in particular an endoscopic instrument, with a housing (1) in which at least one optical system (2) and a hygroscopic substance are inserted, and in which an eyepiece (6) is detachably secured to the housing (1) wherein the hygroscopic substance is imbedded in a moldable matrix material and the matrix material caulked with the hygroscopic substance can be inserted replaceably in the eyepiece (6).

2. Optical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the matrix material caulked with the hygroscopic substance is configured as an O-ring (9) that can be inserted into the eyepiece (6).

3. Optical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the matrix material caulked with the hygroscopic substance is configured as a cylindrical sheath (10) that can be inserted into the eyepiece (6).

4. Optical instrument according to at least one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the moldable matrix material is elastic and penetrable to moisture when hardened.

5. Optical instrument according to at least one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the moldable matrix material is an elastomer on a silicon and/or polyurethane base.

6. Optical instrument according to at least one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the matrix material caulked with the hygroscopic substance can be produced by injection molding.

7. Optical instrument according to at least one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the moisture coating of the hygroscopic substance can be optically identified.

8. Optical instrument according to claim 7, wherein the hygroscopic substance indicates the moisture coating by a difference in color.

9. Optical instrument according to at least one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the hygroscopic substance is a silica gel or a porous ceramic.

10. Optical instrument according to at least one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the hygroscopic substance consists of a mixture of various hygroscopic substances.